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Gorgeous Carat

ゴージャス・カラット

La Esperanza

希望の聖母

氷栗 優

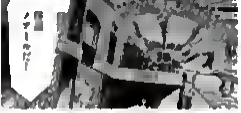
パリ。20世紀初頃。電飾の灯りに夜の静かな帳が浸食されつつある時代
神出鬼没に革命家に通う金子のものを狙い、パリの街を騒がせる美しき闇の帝王。
人は彼をこう呼んだ。――『ノアール』と――。

フロレアン・ド・ロシュフォール
大貴族のロシュフォール家の子息だったが、陰の指令のカタにレイに買われた美しい青年。

レイ・バルザック・クールランド
仮の姿は高級住宅地に店をかまえ、タキの悪い高利貸しをしている。その正体はパリをにぎわす怪盗「ノアール」。

ライラ 怪盗ノアールの一味。

●前回のおはなし●
レイとフロレアンは次の標的を持つ宝石商を追って、スペインに飛んだ。
春祭りの雑踏の中、レイとはぐれたフロレアンは、とある教会で泣きながら聖母マリアに祈りを捧げる少女に出会って――。



それを見ていた怪盗ノアール。

IN FRONT OF THE LOVING STATUE OF THE MADONNA WITH HER SAD EXPRESSION, ...
THE GIRL WITH BRIGHT EYES AKIN TO THE SUNSHINE OF ANDALUSIA
WHAT WAS SHE THINKING ABOUT WHILE SHE PRAYED?

HOW-EVER ...
THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYONE IN THE VICINITY ...
FOR SOME REASON, IT WEIGHED ON MY MIND AND I HASTILY CHASED AFTER HER ...
AS HER BACK DISAP-PEARED FROM VIEW, LIKE SCENERY MADE UP SOLELY OF LIGHT AND SHAD-OWS

第2回

Gorgeous Carat La Esperanza

ゴージャス・カラット

希望の聖母

氷栗 優 HIGURI YOU

HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU INTEND TO JUSTIFY GETTING LOST?
... SO,
ERM ...
BUT I DID REACH THE HOTEL WE ARE STAYING AT!
DID YOU FIND YOUR OWN WAY BACK?
MORE LIKE YOU RAN INTO LAILA AND THE REST WHO FOLLOWED US AND THEY BROUGHT YOU BACK.

SIGH
BUT THIS IS NOT SIMPLY GOING TO BE A TOUR OF SPAIN.
T-THAT IS ... UNDERSTOOD.
B-BUT... NO MATTER HOW WE THOUGHT ABOUT IT, WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU. ONLY BRINGING FLORIAN ALONG.
IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT TO HAVE LIS AROUND.
GURU
YOU PEOPLE ...
I CLEARLY SAID I WOULD NOT BE BRINGING YOU ALL ALONG.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE SINCE YOU ARE ALREADY HERE.
I'LL WORK YOU HARD, SO BE PREPARED

PIERRE IS FLUENT IN EIGHT LANGUAGES AND OF COURSE, SPANISH IS ONE OF THEM.
HE'LL BE USEFUL IN COLLECTING INFORMATION.
IT SEEMS WE CAN FIND HIM AT THE NEARBY TABLAO.
HE APPARENTLY MAKES AN APPEARANCE THERE EVERY NIGHT.
FIRST OF ALL ...
HOW ARE WE TO GATHER INFORMATION ON DURII?
I SEE.
HOWEVER, THIS TIME I'M ACTING ON PERSONAL MATTERS.
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TURN BACK. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

*GOOD.
THAT'S IT... CONSTANTLY PEOPLE'S HEARTS ARE ATTACHED TO NOIR.
BY NOW, WE HAVE SEEN ENOUGH TO MAKE UP OUR MINDS ...
AND WE ARE HAPPY WITH OUR SITUATION.
WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER, NOIR.
E/N: DESPITE HAVING THREE PEOPLE LOOK THIS BUBBLE OVER, THE ORIGINAL FONT WAS JUST TOO SMALL TO DECIPHER. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE ERROR.
THAT PRESENCE HE HAS DRAWS PEOPLE TO HIM
IT'S NOT SIMPLY A QUALITY HE WAS BORN WITH.
THE STRENGTH OF THAT UNFALTERING HEART... IS IT EVIDENCE THAT PROVES SOMETHING ELSE FROM ANOTHER ANGLE?

HIS DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES IN LIFE
WAS FORMED BY WHAT HE SELDOM MENTIONS
AND THAT STRENGTH ...
HAVING LOST EVERYTHING, HE SURVIVED
HIS YOUTH IN FEZ

THAT ...
SNORT
AMONG THEM ...
THEY WERE ONLY A GROUP OF BOYS ...

FORGET EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT MAN!
RIAN.
FLORIAN!
WHY NOW ...
THAT MAN IS ALREADY ...
DON'T GET LOST IN THE TAELAO.
WHAT A DAZE YOU ARE IN. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO RECOGNIZES DURILL.

SINCE IT'S FLORIAN, THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE.
...
ERM, BY THE WAY ...
WHAT'S A TAELAC?
ARISTO-CRATS REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THAT'S RUDE!
IT'S A BAR ..
WITH A STAGE THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRLS DANCE ON.
SOMETHING ...
UNIQUE TO THIS PLACE.

PLEASE SEAT YOURSELVES AT THE EMPTY TABLES INSIDE.
GOOD ONE, BABE!

BUT I GUESS THAT CAN'T BE HELPED. YOU ARE TOO STRIKING.
P
JUST RELAX, FLORIAN.
YOU STICK OUT TOO MUCH.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
IS DURU AMONG THE PEOPLE HERE?
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE ...
SO I CAN'T BE SURE IF HE'S HERE NOW...

17

THE GIRL FROM THAT TIME

THUMP
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NOIR IS SLIGHTLY ANNOYED NOW, AREN'T YOU?
!?
BE QUIET.
FOR SOME REASON, THE STARES I FEEL...

NOIR, HE'S HERE
SITTING ALONE AT THAT CORNER. I DON'T THINK I AM MISTAKEN.
AH!
FOR SOME REASON, HE SEEMS TO BE LOOKING AT YOU.
HAVE YOU ATTRACTED HIS ATTENTION?
I MET HIM WHEN I WAS ABOUT 10-YEARS-OLD.
IT COULD BE HE'S JEALOUS THAT FLORIAN GOT A FLOWER FROM THE DANCER.
I DON'T THINK HE WOULD RECOGNIZE ME..
I SEE. PERHAPS SHE'S THE REASON HE VISITS THE TABLAO REGULARLY?

DON'T LOOK AT HER LIKE THAT!
GLARE
YO, YO, CARLOTTA.
YOU!
STOMP
STOMP

SLAP
YOU HAVE NO BACKBONE AND ONLY DRINK ALL DAY.
NAH, GIVE ME MONEY. MY POCKETS ARE EMPTY AT PRESENT.
LET GO. I'M WORKING NOW.
YOU BITCH!
WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM!?
THWACK

DON'T COME AGAIN!
IDIOT!
TSK.
THIS BITCH!
DON'T MESS WITH THESE PEOPLE!
STOP IT, MARIA!
AHH!
WHACK

GRAB
ERG ...
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, PLEASE APOLOGIZE NOW!
ONE OF YOUR CHARMS IS BEING LIKE AN UNMANAGABLE HORSE.
I WONDER WHAT YOUR LIMITS ARE.
HAD YOU BEEN FRIENDLY TOWARDS US ...
THINGS WOULD BE MUCH DIFFERENT NOW.
EVIL LAUGH
AT A CLOSE RANGE, YOU ARE REALLY A BEAUTY.
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A GO WITH ME?
NAH, MARIA.

PUNCH
DON'T THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOURSELF!
SPIT
URGH!
YOU WHORE!
MURMUR
MURMUR
STAND
OI, FLORIAN!

AH.
OF COURSE, MY PRICE IS HIGH IF YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME.
I JUST WONDER WHETHER SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO LIVES OFF WOMEN CAN EVEN PAY A CENT.
GRAB
YOU TALK OF INTERESTING THINGS, DON'T YOU?
IF YOU CAN PAY, I'LL LET YOU SEE THINGS THAT ARE LIKE DREAMS.
YOU PIG!

SHOVE
!?
STOP IT!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO? GET OUT OF THE WAY!
!?
STEP
LETTING A WOMAN SEE A SIGHT LIKE THIS, HOW CAN I STAND ASIDE AND PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!?

GOOD.
BRACE YOURSELF THEN ...
CRACK
ボキキ
PRETTY BOY.
HOW WILL YOU LOOK WHEN YOU KNOW WHERE YOU STAND?
THAT'S WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ...
次号につづく to be continued